



## **Fact Sheet**

### **Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities Program**

#### **Summary**

To assist counties in meeting the federal accessibility requirements of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, each year Congress appropriates funds to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). States may apply to HHS through its "Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities" program to receive these funds. In turn, counties may apply to state governments, through the chief election official (the Secretary of State in Colorado) to receive these federal funds to enhance accessibility in polling locations.

#### **County Application**

The county application includes a description of what project(s) the funds will be used for, as well as bids from contractors on the cost of the work, if applicable. Counties will often supplement the federal funds with in-kind contributions. Counties attest that the funds will be used for the expressed purpose given in the application, and oftentimes counties include documentation, such as photographs, as evidence that the work was completed.

#### **Use of Funds**

Funds must be used by counties for any of the following activities:

1. Making polling places accessible to individuals with disabilities;
2. Providing the same opportunity for access and participation to individuals with disabilities as for other voters;
3. Training election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers on how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with disabilities in elections for Federal office;
4. Providing individuals with disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places.

Since 2003, thirty Colorado counties have used these federal funds to complete various local projects. Generally, the funds are used to purchase permanent or movable ramps – both for door-way thresholds and entrances to buildings; to retrofit doors with automatic open buttons; to repave uneven sidewalks and parking lots; or to purchase wheelchair accessible voting booths, hand-held magnifiers as low vision aids or to purchase other equipment to assist voters with disabilities.

#### **Amount of Funds**

From 2003 to 2006, Colorado secured \$580,984; an additional \$148,224 was secured for 2007 to assist counties in enhancing accessibility at the polls.

#### **Counties who have received funds**

Adams, Arapahoe, Archuleta, Baca, Bent, Boulder, Broomfield, Chafee, Cheyenne, Crowley, Denver, El Paso, Fremont, Gilpin, Jackson, Larimer, Logan, Moffat, Morgan, Otero, Ouray, Phillips, Pitkin, Prowers, Rio Blanco, Rio Grande, Sedgwick, Teller, Washington and Yuma.